

This week, members of the House of Representatives were called back to Washington from their home states for more taxing and spending. In the nation's capitol, one item was on the agenda: a bailout for states that have failed to manage their budgets properly. I have a message for my colleagues in Washington: What you are doing is WRONG.

Is it sheer coincidence that the states that have the most to gain are states like the President's home of Illinois and the Speaker Pelosi's home, California? The states with the most to lose are places like Missouri, where our tax dollars will go to meet payroll for less conscientious states. A state that has made tough but responsible choices is explicitly excluded from this bailout—instead we are rewarding states that have refused to act responsibly or make difficult choices.

One of my Facebook friends, Dianna from St. Louis, put it this way: "I wouldn't bail out an irresponsible state any more than I would bail out an irresponsible kid. Tell them to grow up and balance their budgets!" She's right - and that's a message all of Congress needs to hear.

The fact is that this state bailout is just one more "high priority" item in a long line of "crucial" spending for this Congress. The Pelosi Congress has seemingly never met a tax and spend scheme it didn't like: from massive stimulus package that did nothing for the economy, and continuing with successive "jobs" bills and "mini-stimulus" packages, to spending increases in almost every area of government that make a mockery of the "PAYGO" principle, to the Cap and Trade tax scheme and a government takeover of healthcare. Even now, months after it should have been completed, they've failed to pass a five-year budget, and it doesn't look like they are even going to try to do so.

During my years as a member of the Missouri House of Representatives, I learned all about the very tough decisions that have to be made to balance state budgets. I learned about the federal mandates that constrain much of our spending and the need to fund crucial services like transportation, education, mental health and public safety. I supported Missouri's balanced budget amendment, and I am currently a cosponsor of H.J.Res. 79, which is similar to Missouri's Hancock Amendment, and would require a balanced the federal budget.

Here's the bottom line: I opposed wasteful spending in the prior administration and I've opposed the long line of profligate spending that has come out of this Congress. I voted against the State

Bailout bill because it is not right for Missourians – who make difficult and responsible spending choices every day – to spend the next decade paying off six months of new spending, most of which will benefit less responsible states. Finally, this measure raises taxes at a time when the economy is in deep trouble, which is a foolish and counter-productive strategy if you want to see new jobs created.

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